Vol. II. Numb. 15.

THE OBSERVATOR.

the Nations Danger by the Jews *residing among us. Of the Carriage of our Fore-Fathers towards the* Jews. *Of the Penal Laws againſt the* Jews. *Their Expulſion for Blaſphemy, and Crucifying Chriſtian Children*, &c.

From Wednesday May the 26th, to Saturday May the 29th, 1703.

untry-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, the *Papiſts* are very angry with you, and ſay they will t your Throat the firſt of all the Proteſtants *England*: They hope for another Maſſacre, t I hope God for the ſake of his Proteſtant eople will ſuffer no more of their Cruelties in is Country. The People at *London* ſay we have nother ſort of Folks among us, Namely the *ews*, who are full as dangerous to the Nation; ethinks I hate the very looks of thoſe Fellows, hey have an ugly Countenance, they don't look ike the reſt of Mankind, I fanſy they are the Poſterity of *Cain*, and bear the Mark of their Progenitor in their Faces; theſe Men are Enemies to the Chriſtian Religion, they Crucified our Bleſſed Saviour, and to this day account him n Impoſtor: It can't ſink into my Head that theſe People can ſafely be tolerated among us. Pray, Sir, how do they ſtand in the Eye of our Law.

Obſ. I think a Man had as good hold his Tongue as talk of Law. We have every Seſſions ſome poor Wretches, Natives of *England*, Try'd, Convicted, and Puniſhed for *Peccadillo*'s; but the Cut-throat Jeſuits and Papiſts who come in great Numbers from *France* on purpoſe to Murder our Natives, find Ways and Means to give our Laws the ſlip: I don't remember of one Perſon Proſecuted either before or ſince the War, for coming from *France* without Licenſe, according to the Act in that Caſe provided.

No *Jew* can be ſeen in *England* without danger of his Life; for by his being in *England* he is actually Convicted, and ought to be hang'd immediately according to the Statute of the 18th of *Edward* the Firſt, made for the entire Baniſhment of the *Jews*, which Act was never repealed to this very Day; and any Native of *England* may put it in Force when he pleaſes. *Pierce de Gaveſton* was twice Baniſhed out of *England*, but returning in Contempt of the Authority of Parliament, he was (without Conſulting King *Edward* II.) taken in *Scarborough* Caſtle and Beheaded: And ſays a Judicious Author, *By the ſame Precedent and Authority all the* Jews *in* England *may be cut off.*

The Reaſons and Grounds of their Baniſhment aroſe from their Blaſphemies, and Stealing, and Crucifying of Chriſtian Children, for Defacing and Clipping the Coin, for Uſury, Forgery, Impiety, Cheating, and Perverting to Judaiſm. Theſe were the reaſons for which they were Baniſhed, after they had reſided in *England* 220 Years; but I can give no Reaſon for their Re-admiſſion?

Country-m. What you ſay, cauſes a great Suſpicion in me, that many poor Innocent Children to this very day, are Crucified by the *Jews* in *England*; a great Number of Children, Suppos'd to be *Kidnabb'd*, I verily believe, go that Way. Well, if ever I meet one of thoſe ill-look'd Hounds in my Country, I'll lay him faſt enough in Goal.

Obſ. We had no *Jews* in *England*, before *William* (commonly and falſly called) the *Conquerour*; For they could not have lived before that time in *England*; becauſe Several Acts then Executed, did Enact, *That whoſoever ſhall deny Jeſus Chriſt or ſhall Teach or Preach againſt the Goſpel, or Renounce the New Teſtament, ſhall be puniſhed with Death* See the Laws of King *Alfred* and *Gutborne*. *Lex.* 1: 2. *Etheldred*, in the Council of *Entſam*, cap. 1. 3. 27. 29. 30. of *Habam*, cap. with the Laws of *Canute* the Dane; but more particularly See *Brompton* and *Spelman*.

Can our Clergy at this Day Boaſt of their Learning and Diſcipline, over what the Clergy had 800 or 1000 Years ago? We find in thoſe days a great Care was taken of the Authority of our Saviour *Jeſus Chriſt*, and it was made Death to Preach againſt Him: When now in the Refined State of the Church, contrary to the Laws of the Land, our Saviour is publickly Blaſphemed every Week in the City of *London*, if not in other Places in *England*, and ſhameful it is to this Age. I have often known the Time when Proteſtant Diſſenters, who have agreed with our Church in the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, have been denied the Liberty to Preach *Jeſus Chriſt*, and Him Crucified, when theſe *Jews* have every Day Blaſphemed our Bleſſed Saviour without Moleſtation. Don't miſtake me, Honeſt *Country-man*, I am not going to fall out with our Clergy, God forgive them and us our Sins in Perſecuting our Proteſtant Brethren in *England*, which was breaking down the Hedge to let the *Popiſh Wolves* and *Jewiſh Bears* into our Paſtures: But I'll tell thee what; there was a Book Publiſhed the laſt Seſſions, and Dedicated to the Convocation, call'd, *An Hiſtorical and Law Treatiſe againſt the* Jews, *and* Judaiſm. This Book was Written with ſo much Judgment and Learning, ſo very well Penn'd, and the Cauſe of Chriſt ſo earneſtly recommended to the conſideration of the Members of the *Convocation*; That at that Time I hoped, not to have ſeen a *Jew* now in *England*.

Country-m. Nor ſhall there be one ſeen in *England* in twelve Months time, if I can drive 'em out, and I'll aſſure you I'll Proſecute them and the *Papiſts* to the utmoſt Penny of my Money; and therefore pray Sir, give me an Account

count of the Laws againſt the *Jews*, and in what caſes they are Criminals.

Obſ. All the Laws relating to *Blaſphemy* and *Irreligion*, and almoſt all the Laws relating to *Immorality and Vice* do reach the *Jews*: But particularly to Inform you in this Matter, I will give you an Account of the Penal Laws againſt the *Jews*, Enacted *Anno* 7 *Edw.* 1.

1. *No* Jew *ſhall come for, or depart* England *without Licenſe, upon Pain of Death.*

2. *No* Jew *ſhall Walk or Ride without a Yellow Badge upon his, or her outward or upper Garment.*

3. *No* Jew *ſhall ſtir out of his Houſe or Lodging on* Good-Fryday.

4. *No* Jew *ſhall contemn* Jeſus Chriſt, *nor Blaſpheme His Divinity, on Pain of being Burnt.*

5. *No* Jew *ſhall Strike a* Chriſtian, *on Pain of having his Right Arm cut off.*

6. *No* Jew *ſhall Kill a* Chriſtian, *on Pain that he be Hang'd alive on a* Gibbet, *and be fed daily with Bread and Water till he Dies upon the ſame* Gibbet.

7. *If any* Jew *ſhall Cheat a* Chriſtian, *and Eſcape, all the reſt of the* Jews *ſhall make ſatisfaction to the* Chriſtian, *ſo Cheated.*

8. *All the* Synagogues *of the* Jews *ſhall be ſuppreſs'd; and if any of their* Rabbies, *or* Jewiſh *Prieſts, ſhall Teach or Preach againſt the* Chriſtian Religion *hereafter in* England, *all ſuch Preachers and others ſhall be Burnt.*

9. *No* Jew, *on Pain of Hanging, ſhall Tranſport any* Bullion *or* Coin *beyond Sea, nor Deface, or Melt down any* Chriſtian Coin.

10. *The Kings Judges ſhall not bear the Teſtimony of a* Jew *againſt a* Chriſtian.

11. *No* Jew *ſhall be Sworn upon the* Evangeliſts.

12. *The* Jews *ſhall have four Judges, two whereof* Chriſtians, *and the other* Jews, *who ſhall Try and Determine all Cauſes betwixt* Jews *and* Chriſtians.

13. *All the Children of the* Jews, *as ſoon as Born, the Rector or Vicar of the Pariſh ſhall take from them, put ſuch to Nurſes, and breed them up in the* Chriſtian Religion; *for which the* Jews *muſt Pay all the Charges.*

14. *In the Exchequer appointed for the* Jews, *there ſhall be half* Chriſtians *and half* Jews; *and ſhall both have equal Power, and different Locks and Keys to prevent* Fraud.

15. *The* Jews *ſhall Account for all the Money they lay out; and for the Profits and Returns, before the Juſticiaries over the* Jews, *as often as they ſhall be required.*

16. *If any* Jew *ſhall be Converted to the* Chriſtian Faith, *all his Uſurious Acquiſition to be Converted to Pious and Charitable Uſes.*

17. *The* Jews *ſhall go to hear* Chriſtian Doctrine *once a Week, and as many* Engliſh Jews *as turn* Chriſtians, *ſhall be as free of* England, *as if they were Born of* Chriſtian Parents.

18. *No* Jew *ſhall Co-habit with a* Chriſtian *Woman.*

19. *No* Jew *ſhall be Buried in any Conſecrated Ground.*

20. *No* Jew *ſhall Correſpond with any of the Enemies of* England.

21. *No* Jews *Widow ſhall have any Right of Adminiſtration; but after the Deceaſe of her husband, all the* Jews *Effects and Moveables ſha Veſted in the King, and the King ſhall be E tor, and Adminiſtrator to all the* Jews *in Engl*

22. *No* Jew *ſhall Sue for his own Debt in the Name of the King, and with the King's cenſe: And if any* Jew *Defrauds the King of Cuſtoms, or the other Rights, he ſhall Forfeit his to the King.*

Notwithſtanding theſe Laws, which ſo have called Sanguinary; yet were the *Jews* pudent and Inſolent to the very Day of th Expulſion; tho' great Numbers of them w hang'd, kill'd and burnt for their Blaſphem there being no People in the World ſo ſtup ly bigotted to their Opinion as are *Jews.* Inſtance hereof is in one *Solomon* a Jew, men oned in almoſt all the Hiſtorians of that Ag This *Solomon* in the Year 1260. happened to into a Houſe of Office at *Lincoln* on the Sat day, which is the *Jewiſh* Sabbath, in reſpect which he would not be taken out till the ne Day, which being the *Chriſtian* Sabbath, *Richa* Earl of *Glouceſter* in Reverence to the Lor Day, commanded him to be kept there till *Mo day*, when he was found Dead; which occaſion ed the following Diſtick betwixt a *Jew* and *Chriſtian*, according to the Wit and Poetry o thoſe Times.

Jew. *Sabbatha noſtra colo,*
De Stercore Surgere nolo.
Chriſtian. *Sabbatha noſtra Quidem,*
Solomon, *ſervabis ibidem.*
Jew. *My Sabbath I Religiouſly will keep,*
And therefore from the T——d I will not creep.
Chriſtian. *To do the ſame we Chriſtians think* [*moſt fit,*
Thou liv'd'ſt a ſtinking Jew, *now Dy'ſt B——t.*

I find, Honeſt *Country-man*, it grows late; but at our our next Meeting I ſhall Diſcourſe a little further on this Subject, and ſhew you that we have juſt Reaſon to take the Advantage of the Act of *Expulſion* our Fore-Fathers made againſt the *Jews*; at preſent I bid you a hearty Farewel.

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